

Statute

World-wide Confederation of Past-Pupils of the Daughters of Mary Help of Christians
Approved at the 3rd Confederation Assembly – August 28, 2003
Modified at the 4th Confederation Assembly – August 1, 2009

1. DEFINITION

- 1.1. The World-wide Confederation of the Past-Pupils of the Daughters of Mary Help of Christians, subsequently referred to as the Association, is a non profit association of the laity, promoted by the Institute of the Daughters of Mary Help of Christians (or Salesian Sisters of St. John Bosco). As such, it is a group of the Salesian Family, seeing in the Rector Major – successor of Don Bosco – its father and center of unity.
- 1.2. It is present in society as a natural lay expression of a religious educational Institute which works in various cultures.
- 1.3. The Association does not adhere to any political party.

2. MEMBERS

- 2.1. The Association welcomes members of all religions
- 2.2. Effective members of the Association include those who have both
 - assumed Salesian values in their own life
 - freely ask to become members of the Association
- 2.3. Every associate:
 - accepts this Statute and is committed to fulfilling it;
 - pays the annual membership fee established according to the directives of the Ordinary Assembly
- 2.4. The membership fee is not subject to restitution, that is, it cannot increase in value nor can it generate income of any kind; it is non transferable, that is, it cannot be given up, refunded, given in donation or become the object of inheritance.
- 2.5. The associative relationship is for an undetermined time, and will cease only by renouncement, exclusion, or death.
When an associate behaves in a manner that is detrimental to the life of the Association, and after there have been attempts at reconciliation, that member may be excluded from participation by virtue of a judgment of the Board of Arbitrators
Membership in the Associative ends in the case of the non-payment of the annual fee within one year from the end of the social year.

3. HEADQUARTERS AND STRUCTURE

- 3.1. The legal headquarters are in Rome (Italy), via Gregorio VII, 133, sc. B, int. 4.

- 3.2. The World-Wide Confederation of the Past-Pupils of the Daughters of Mary Help of Christians is organized in: Federations and Unions which are an integral part of the Association's organization and, as such are:
- a natural expression of the Association's activity;
 - a natural instrument for gathering the Associates' requests.
- 3.3. The Federations and Unions are autonomous, sharing the same Confederation goals, spirituality and organizational structure.
- The Unions represent the most direct contact with the individual past-pupils; they are linked directly to the Federation in their specific territory.
- The Federations represent the Unions included in their territory and are linked directly to the World-Wide Confederation of the past-pupils of the Daughters of Mary Help of Christians.
- 3.4. The Confederation may fulfill its goals through participation in other associations or juridical entities. It can create structures which are useful and respond to specific legal, organizational or representative needs, provided that:
- a) the goals of said associations correspond to those of the Confederation;
 - b) the Confederation's unity of action is in no way compromised;
 - c) the statutes of the other associations and juridical entities have received a positive vote from the Confederation Council, having heard the opinion of the Board of Arbitrators, on the conformity of said statutes to that of the Confederation.
 - d) the Confederation has an effective control in such Associations.

4. GOALS

4.1. The Association:

- a) participates in the educational mission of the Institute of the Daughters of Mary Help of Christians (FMA), and in other areas where it can be inserted with the Salesian lay style that characterizes it;
- b) is committed to the promotion and education of women, to the defense of life and of the family;
- c) works for the defense of human rights and peace;
- d) favors a constructive youth protagonism by promoting initiatives and activities in favor of the young, especially of those who live in disadvantaged situations;
- e) is present as a pace-setter for dialogue with the social cultural reality, using to the best advantage the processes of social communication;
- f) is open to and favors inter-cultural and inter-religious dialogue;
- g) updates and ensures the ongoing formation of the associates, in keeping with the educational values received;
- h) lives, promotes, and sustains solidarity between members in fidelity to the origins;
- i) is present locally, and collaborates, according to its proper goals, with other civil and ecclesial organisms in the territory;
- j) takes care of relationships with other lay associations especially with the Past-pupils of Don Bosco and with the Salesian Cooperators.

5. SPIRITUALITY

- 5.1. The spirituality of the Past-Pupils of the FMA is founded on the Preventive System of St. John Bosco and is expressed in reason – religion – loving kindness. Today it re-proposes an integral educational project which responds to the authentic aspirations of the person: the *search for truth, need for God, openness to relationships*.
- 5.2. It is also enriched by the charismatic elements of the Life-style and actions of Maria Mazzarello, who, with her “feminine genius”, shared in the same educational project with Don Bosco, inspired by Mary: “take care of them...”; living with simplicity the joys of daily life; filling each small gesture with the experience of God; inserted in the local territory, witnessing to and promoting the culture of life and of solidarity.

6. RELATIONSHIP OF ASSOCIATES

- 6.1. The intermediate representative bodies of the association are the means by which each associate exercises her/his rights and fulfills her/his duties. These bodies include:
- the Federations in relationship to the Confederation;
 - the Unions in relationship to the Federations.
- Each associate can personally have recourse to the Board of Arbitrators in order to denounce eventual violations of her/his rights by intermediate representative bodies.

7. CONFEDERATION BODIES

- 7.1. The Confederation bodies include:
- Confederation Assembly
 - Confederation Council
 - Confederation Advisory Council of the Association
 - Board of Auditors
 - Board of Arbitrators

8. CONFEDERATION ASSEMBLY

- 8.1. The Confederation Assembly is the most important body in the Association, and is made up of all the Federation presidents
- 8.2. The Assembly is valid with the participation of at least 50% of the Federations having the right to vote.
- It is permitted for a delegate of the President to participate and vote. The President may delegate a Councilor of the same Federation after consulting with the rest of her/his Council.
- All the other members of the diverse bodies of the Association and others who are invited by the Confederation Council may participate in the Assembly without the right to vote.

8.3. The Assembly is convened at least every six years by the Confederation President, or when there is a request made by at least one third of the members of the Confederation Council, or by one-fifth of the members of the Confederation Assembly.

It is presided over by the Confederation President who will nominate one or more secretaries to record the minutes of the meeting, as well as one or more scrutineers.

The Assembly deliberates on every issue presented as well as on:

- a) the nomination of the Confederation Council;
- b) the nomination of the Board of Auditors;
- c) the nomination of the Board of Arbitrators;
- d) the approval of organizational and administrative reports presented by the President, including that of the Auditors of the accounts;
- e) the Statute and eventual modifications to it;
- f) the eventual implementation of regulations of the Statutes
- g) the guidelines programmed for actualizing the goals of the Association;
- h) the criteria referring to the membership fee;
- i) the dissolution of the Association.

8.4. Each Federation representative has the right to one vote for every 100 active members in the Federation she/he represents.

Fractions of 100 are rounded up.

Deliberations become effective if approved by one-half plus one of the total number of possible votes in the Assembly.

9. CONFEDERATION COUNCIL

9.1. The Confederation Council is the ordinary and extraordinary governing body. It is made up of at least 9 and not more than 21 members who remain in office for six years and who can be elected for no more than two terms.

Notwithstanding what is written in the preceding paragraph, the assembly may re-elect each councilor for a further term of office, provided that the election is confirmed by the majority, as foreseen in the last paragraph of art 8.4. (Assembly – August 1, 2009)

9.2. The discontinuance of a councilor does not require that a new one be co-opted; it simply means the reduction of the number of Council members.

9.3 In the case of the discontinuance of the majority of the Councilors, an extraordinary Assembly must immediately be called to elect the Council.

9.4. The Council meets at least three times a year upon being convened by the President or upon the request of at least one third of its members.

The Council is validly constituted with the presence of at least one third of its members and deliberates with the absolute majority of those present.

It will be presided over by the President, or by another member nominated by the Council.

9.5. The Council is charged with the ordinary and extraordinary affairs which include:

- a) Electing from within the council, the Confederal President, Vice President, Treasurer and Secretary. It is preferable that those elected already have served on the Council;
- b) assigning specific responsibilities to each Councilor in keeping with her/his competency;

- c) nominating, from among its members, a Confederation Committee with executive responsibilities; which may also include members who are not on the Council. (Assembly – August 1, 2009);
- d) Promoting, supporting, and organizing study sessions for actualizing the guidelines deliberated in the Ordinary Assembly;
- e) approving the annual budget and balance sheet of the administration;
- f) promoting other activities in keeping with existing legislation which allow for self-financing without profit-making;
- g) implementing the guidelines of the Assembly regarding membership fees;
- h) expressing their opinion on the conformity of eventual statutes and regulations presented by the Federations and Unions;
- i) preparing the electoral regulations;
- j) assumption, if necessary, of personnel and/or independent services, preferably hiring Association members;
- k) promoting the official magazine of the Confederation, indicating the editorial guidelines and nominating the director.

9.6. The Confederation President is the legal representative of the Association.

The Council may delegate as representatives of the Association for some actions or category of actions, a third party who is not a Councilor.

9.7. If a Councilor fails to participate in three consecutive meetings, the Council may deliberate that she/he is disqualified from office after having taken into consideration the motives for such absence.

9.8. Council members do not have a right to payment except the reimbursement of those expenses incurred while fulfilling an assignment as established by the Council.

9.9. Candidates for Confederation Councilors must be presented by the Federation Councils.

9.10. Upon the completion of her/his mandate, the Confederation President becomes an honorary President. Upon invitation, she/he may participate in the Assemblies and Council meetings without the right to vote.

10. CONFEDERATION ASSOCIATES' REGISTER

10.1. This is the official register of the effective Association members.

10.2. Those who annually pay the membership fee have the right to be registered and become effective members of the Association.

11. CONFEDERATION ADVISORY COUNCIL

11.1 The Confederation Advisory Council is made up of the Superior General of the Institute of the Daughters of Mary Help of Christians, a point of reference for the Association, by the General Councilor of the Salesian Family, and by the members of the Confederation Council.

- 11.2 The Confederation Advisory Council meets at least once a year when convened by the President of the Confederation Council; it can meet more frequently upon the request of the Superior General or of at least one third of its members.
- 11.3. The FMA members of the Advisory Council participate in the Confederation Assembly, in the Confederation Council and in the Board of arbitrators; they can intervene, without the right to vote. These bodies before deliberating, must seek the advice of the FMA members of the Advisory Council.
- 11.4. The goal of the Advisory Council is to keep alive in the Federations and FMA provinces the values of the Association. In particular:
- a) encourage the full appreciation of the resources of the laity, ensuring reciprocal relationships between the Association and the Institute of the FMA in full communion and with respect for autonomy;
 - b) promote educational continuity as a coherent expression of the Preventive System of St. John Bosco, helping young past-pupils and becoming co-responsible for the fulfillment of the Association's goals;
 - c) share reflections and initiatives on reciprocal commitments in favor of women, life, and the family.
- 11.5. The Confederation Delegate, nominated by the Superior General of the Institute of the Daughters of Mary Help of Christians, represents the Institute in the animation and formation of the Association. She maintains contact with the Federation Delegates and offers guidelines for their continued service.

12. THE BOARD OF AUDITORS

- 12.1. The Board of Auditors is the body for the Association's financial control. It is elected by the Confederation Assembly, and is made up of three members whose term is for six years, and who can be elected for no more than two terms.
The Board elects the President from among its members.
- 12.2. The auditors may participate and intervene, without the right to vote, in the Confederation Assembly and in the Confederation Council meetings.
- 12.3. In those cases where the Board notices some irregularity in the financial administration, it must immediately notify the Confederation Council.
- 12.4 Each member may inform the Board of those acts of the Association which she/he retains irregular so that the Board may take into account said actions in the fulfillment of its duty.
- 12.5. In the case of an auditor not being able to continue her/his services, the Board will co-opt another member to substitute her/him.
- 12.6. The appointment as an auditor is incompatible with every other office in the Association at all levels.
- 12.7. Appointment to the Board of Auditors is dependent upon an adequate competency and experience in the field of financial administration.

13. STATEMENT OF ASSETS

- 13.1. The financial accounting activity goes from January 1 to December 31 of each calendar year and must be approved by the Council within six months of each activity.
- 13.2. The Financial Statement comprises the patrimony, the financial accounts, the President's report and the Auditors' report.
- 13.3. At the end of each term, the Council prepares and presents a statement of assets relative to the entire period of said term, in keeping with what is outlined in the preceding point and will submit it for the approval of the Assembly.

14. THE BOARD OF ARBITRATORS

- 14.1 The Board of Arbitrators is the judicial body for any controversy that may arise between associates. The financial statement comprises the balance sheet, the income statement, the report of the President and the Report of the Auditors of the accounts.
It is also the body in charge of the authentic interpretation of the present Statute.
- 14.3. The Board of Arbitrators will fulfill its responsibility on an equitable basis and in ways that it considers most appropriate, in compliance with the adversarial principle and the right to a defense according to the rules of free arbitration.
- 14.4. In case a member of the Board ceases to be a member, the Board will co-opt another member to substitute her/him.
- 14.5. The appointment of a member to the Board of Arbitrators is incompatible with every other office in the Association at all levels.
- 14.6. The appointment of a member to the Board of Arbitrators is dependant on:
- being at least 40 years of age;
- having experienced the life of the Association.

15. PERIODICAL

- 15.1. The World-wide Confederation of the Past-Pupils of the Daughters of Mary Help of Christians has its own periodical. It is the body for uniting, updating, and sharing information within the Association.

16. PATRIMONY

- 16.1. The Confederation disposes of a patrimony made up of:
a) the membership fee collected from the associates;
b) all offerings, donations, benefits subsidies and similar things;

- c) the funds which eventually result on the balance sheet as surplus, and those which are the fruit of the investments of the Association's patrimony;
- d) movable and immovable, material and immaterial goods, including the rights, which have been acquired by the Association with its own funds or donated to it by other entities.

- 16.2. The World-Wide Confederation of the Past-Pupils of the Daughters of Mary Help of Christians is not responsible for the patrimony and/or capital of the Federations and Unions.
- 16.3. The distribution, even in an indirect manner, of the surplus and funds of the patrimony or capital of the Association is prohibited except in the case where the law imposes such redistribution.
- 16.4. If the Association should be disbanded, the Confederation Council will decide on giving the entire patrimony of the Association to the Institute of the Daughters of Mary Help of Christians, or to another association with similar goals.